



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

For Immediate Release:

February 4, 2016

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Senate votes down bill mandating minimum wage increases on small businesses

Concord, NH – Today, The Senate voted down a bill that would have mandated an increase in the minimum wage in New Hampshire from \$7.25 to \$12 per hour.

“We believe that small businesses know best how much the market pays for a position and what a business owner can afford to pay. Mandating an unreasonable 65% increase in the minimum wage could hurt small business owners and prevent them from creating new jobs. Companies like Wal-Mart, McDonalds, Aetna, TJ Maxx, Target, the Gap and Costco have already increased their hourly wages without being forced to do so because it’s a smart business move. We believe that companies should make dramatic increases in pay because they choose to do so freely and based on market pressure, not forced government mandates,” said Senator Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith), Senate Finance Committee Chair.

“By voting down the minimum wage increase, we are sending a message to employers that they know best and can make their own decisions to establish wages that they can afford for the work being asked of their employees. Employers are doing the best they can to compensate employees; however, artificially raising wages may be unaffordable for many small businesses, who would likely need to close their doors, allowing jobs to disappear as a result. Evidence points to mixed results at best, which is why small business advocates regularly oppose similar efforts,” added Forrester.

“We’ve made great strides to boost New Hampshire’s economy with business tax cuts this past year and other changes that will continue to improve our state’s economic outlook and our state’s employers’ ability to be successful and establish their own competitive wages. Requiring all employers to nearly double their minimum wages would hurt small businesses and would result in fewer jobs and hours available for hourly employees,” said Senator Jerry Little (R-Weare), Senate Finance Committee Vice-Chair.

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